

Food Sanitation Law
(Law No. 233, December 24, 1947)

Last amendment: Law No. 55, May 30, 2003

- Article 11 1. The Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, from the viewpoint of public health, may establish standards for methods of manufacturing, processing, using, preparing, or preserving food or additives intended for sale or may establish specifications for components of food or food additives intended for sale, based upon the opinion of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council.
2. Where specifications or standards have been established pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Paragraph, any person shall be prohibited from manufacturing, processing, using, preparing, or preserving any food or food additive by a method not complying with the established standards; or from manufacturing, importing, processing, using, preparing, preserving, or selling any food or food additive not complying with the established specifications.
- Article 18 1. The Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, from the viewpoint of public health, may establish specifications for apparatus, containers/packages, or materials thereof intended for sale or for use in business, or may establish standards for methods of manufacturing apparatus or containers/packages, based upon the opinion of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council.
2. Where specifications or standards have been established pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Paragraph, any person shall be prohibited from selling, manufacturing or importing with intent to sell, or using in business any apparatus or container/package not complying with the established specifications; from using any raw material not complying with the established specifications; or from manufacturing any apparatus or container/package by a method not complying with the established standards.

Revision of the “Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc.” in Relation to Prohibition Against Using Cattle Vertebral Columns from BSE countries or zones.

- Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Notice No. 10 (January 16, 2004)

In accordance with the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 1 and Article 18, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Law (Law No. 233, 1947), the following provisions were added to the “Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc.” (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notice No. 370, 1959). Such additions shall come into force on February 16, 2004.

1. Standards for Manufacturing, Processing and Preparation of General Foods

- • In cases where meat derived from cattle that have been reared in a country or zone with the incidence of BSE (meaning “bovine spongiform encephalopathy” prescribed in Article 2 of the Law on Special Measures Against Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Law No. 70, 2002)) (hereinafter the cattle is referred to as “Specified Cattle”) is sold directly to general consumers, the vertebral column (excluding the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, the wings of the sacrum and the vertebrae of the tail; hereinafter the same applies) shall be removed.
Removal of the vertebral column shall be done using methods that can prevent not only cattle meat and internal organs for food use but also other meat in the place of the removal work from being contaminated with the dorsal root ganglia.
In the manufacturing, processing, or preparation of food, no vertebral columns of Specified Cattle shall be used as ingredients. However, this does not apply to cases where fat and oil derived from vertebral columns of Specified Cattle is hydrolyzed, saponified, or transesterified under high temperature and high pressure before it is used as an ingredient.

2. Manufacturing Standards for Food Additives

- • In the manufacturing or processing of food additives, no vertebral columns of Specified Cattle shall be used as ingredients. However, this does not apply to cases where fat and oil derived from the vertebral columns of Specified Cattle is hydrolyzed, saponified, or transesterified under high temperature and high pressure before it is used as an ingredient.

3. Manufacturing Standards for Apparatus, Containers, and Packages

- • In the manufacturing of apparatus, containers, or packages, no vertebral columns of Specified Cattle shall be used as ingredients. However, this does not apply to cases where fat and oil derived from the vertebral columns of Specified Cattle is hydrolyzed, saponified, or transesterified under high temperature and high pressure before it is used as an ingredient.